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They sought to strike terror into students

Charges pressed against 25 Buet students in Abrar killing case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The accused in Buet student Abrar Fahad murder case had turned so rowdy that they would torture general students to create terror on the campus.

They wanted the common students to remain scared of them, DMP Additional Commissioner Monirul Islam said as police yesterday pressed charges against 25 Buet students, mostly Chhatra League men, in the case.

He also said the accused tormented the students in the name of ragging and that Abrar killing was the result of their longstanding efforts to create the reign of terror.

Monirul said the accused were used to leading lives of “non-students” and they abused their political identity to evade any actions against them.



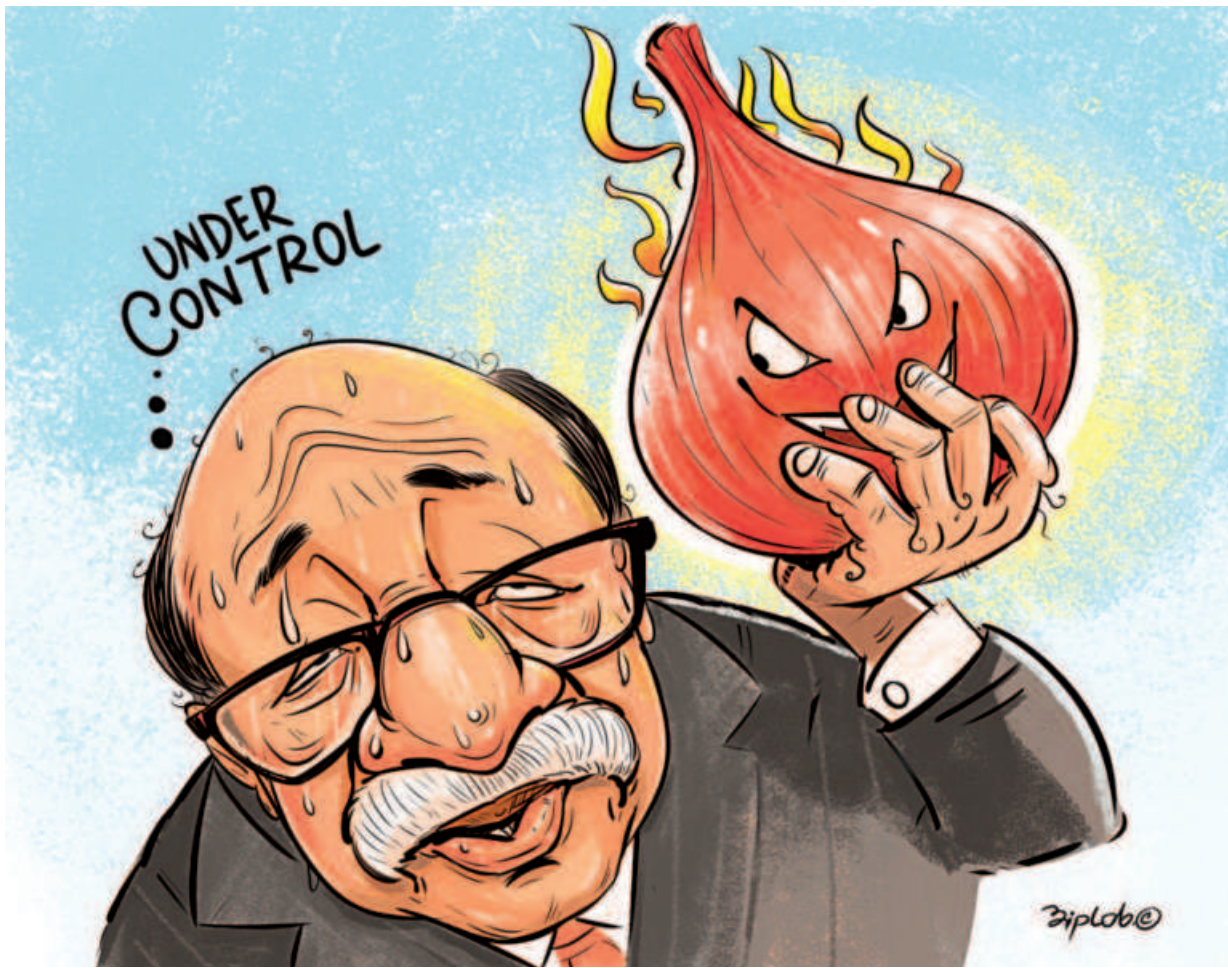
Inspector of Detective Branch of police MD Wahiduzaman, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka yesterday, 37 days after Abrar was tortured for hours leading to his death at Buet's Sher-e- Bangla Hall.

Abrar, a 2nd year student of electrical and electric engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, was a resident of the dormitory.

Law enforcers suspect the BCL men attacked Abrar because of one of his recent Facebook posts, which seemed critical of some recent deals with India.

The incident triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the country. Many took to social media to demand justice for Abrar.

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Onion price hits the roof; Tk 180 a kg

ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

Onion price has hit a record high with each kg selling for Tk 180 and above yesterday evening, a day after Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said the prices were under control.

The prices kept rising in the last couple of days, and the trend intensified yesterday.

Retail price of the local variety was Tk 160 a kg yesterday morning in the capital, Tk 10 more than the evening before. It kept rising as the hours went by and in the evening, each kg sold for Tk 180.

The wholesale price was lower by Tk 10 to 15.

Supply shortage and bad weather have driven the prices upwards, retailers and wholesalers said,

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I want death penalty for my son's killers

Says Abrar's mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As police yesterday pressed charges against 25 Buet students in the Abrar Fahad murder case, family and friends of the slain student demanded quick trial and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Abrar's mother Rokeya Khatun demanded capital punishment of those involved in the murder.

The grieving mother, who never sat in front of a TV after she lost her son, yesterday turned on the TV just to watch the news on submission of charge sheet in Abrar Fahad murder case.

She burst into tears as a satellite TV channel started broadcasting the news. “I want capital punishment of those who killed my son

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Anti-graft drive to continue

PM tells Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the drive against casinos and all kinds of corruption was going on and it would continue until the crimes are eliminated from all levels of the society.

Laws were being strictly enforced against all criminals irrespective of their political affiliations and views, she told parliament while replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Rowshan Ara Mannan.

Responding to another question from JP lawmaker Mujibul Haque Chunnu, the leader of the House said the Anti-Corruption Commission was working to bring all the corrupt to book.

“Apart from politicians, legal actions are also being taken against government employees and other people during the anti-graft drive.”

The premier informed the House that the ACC has already urged the Singapore government to provide it with information on some Bangladeshis who played in casinos there.

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Leg broken, but she cries in different pain

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and WASIM BIN HABIB

“Soha moni (dear), where have you gone?... How could you take my daughter, Allah?”

Nazma Akter groaned in pain as she asked these questions in intervals, with her bandaged legs placed on a pillow in the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) in the capital.

Her questions went unheard among the moans and whimpers at the hospital's ward, which filled with patients who suffered major injuries in early Tuesday's rail accident in Brahmanbaria's Kasba.

The accident that took away 16 lives, including that of Nazma's daughter.

The 28-year-old garment worker, along with her daughter Adiba Akter Soha, her husband, son and mother, boarded Udayan Express from Habiganj's Shayestaganj at 12:00midnight on Monday.

She and her husband work in separate

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RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

Spending poor on human resources

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Despite a concerning manpower shortage in the railway sector, the government has made little effort to address the situation and has instead focused on massive infrastructural development projects.

The government allocated a whopping Tk 54,816 crore since 2014-15 to the Ministry of Railways to implement 36 development and technical projects to improve the rail services, but experts fear that without sufficient manpower the services will not improve.

According to data from Bangladesh Railways (BR), to run the 356 passenger trains, or around 30 trains per day, the railway has allotted some 1,757 loco master (train driver) posts of different categories.

But it has only employed 1,118 people for the purpose, making it understaffed to cover the 2955.53 kilometre network and connect 44 districts of the country.

Contacted, Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan told The Daily Star that there were some recruitment complications, but the ministry had made solving these a top-priority.

He also said that they were focusing on increasing the capacity of their manpower, which would take some time.

“We provide training to increase the capacity of our manpower. But, it seems the existing training facilities and curriculum are not modern and up-to-date. We have to revise all those,” Nurul said.

Surprisingly, the current curriculum is outdated by decades, which may

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REOPENING HALLS JU protesters issue 8-day ultimatum

JU CORRESPONDENT

Demanding the immediate removal of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Vice-Chancellor, the protesters yesterday issued an eight-day ultimatum to open all dormitories for a safe educational environment.

“If the university authorities wouldn't do it, then we would begin tougher movements from November 22. Within this time, the VC would not take part in any policy making activities. If she does, we would resist,” said, Prof Rayhan Rhyne, convener and one of the organisers of “Jahangirnagar Against Corruption”, at a press briefing on the campus.

“We will hold a rally on

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Abul Kalam's wife Benu Ara helping him drink a glass of water at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation yesterday. Both of his legs were broken in multiple places in Tuesday's train crash in Brahmanbaria. Inset, college student Shahida Akhter's legs were also broken.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Uphill task for Tigers

First Test against India from today

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Indore

Bangladesh will begin their World Test Championship campaign with the first Test against India at Indore today with a new Test captain at the helm in the form of Mominul Haque. Without much time to prepare for the longest format, the Tigers were intent on getting some last-minute preparation done at the Holkar Stadium yesterday.

The last few weeks ahead of the tour of India had been turbulent but Bangladesh's first-ever T20I win against India, which came at Delhi in the first game on the tour, will give the team the drive to challenge their more experienced counterparts.

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